

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for displaying information on a set of displays, the method comprising:
2 identifying a change in data displayed by a set of clients;
3 notifying the set of clients of a change to the displayed data;
4 receiving a request for a page containing the changed data in response to the
5 notification;
6 generating a page containing the changed data; and
7 sending the page containing the changed data to the set of clients.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein each client is assigned a rotation set comprising a list that
2 identifies pages to be displayed by the client, the method further comprising:
3 identifying the page that contains the changed data;
4 identifying at least one rotation set that identifies the page containing the changed
5 data; and
6 identifying at least one client that displays the at least one identified rotation set.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the rotation set specifies a uniform resource locator for at
2 least one page to be displayed by the client to which the rotation set is assigned.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the rotation set specifies an amount of time for which the
2 at least one page is to be displayed by the client to which the rotation set is assigned.
- 1 5. The method of claim 2 wherein notifying a set of clients of the change to the displayed
2 data comprises sending at least one rotation set to the set of clients, with the pages
3 identified by the at least one rotation set reflecting the change in the displayed data.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one rotation set is sent to the set of clients in
2 response to identifying the change in the displayed data.
- 1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) is used to send the at
2 least one rotation set to the set of clients.

- 1 8. The method of claim 5 further comprising sending, to the set of clients, instructions for
2 each client to request pages that contain changed data in response to receiving a rotation
3 set.
- 1 9. The method of claim 5 further comprising sending, to the set of clients, instructions for
2 each client to display the pages identified by a received rotation set at least until the client
3 receives a new rotation set.
- 1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the instructions comprise portable, platform independent
2 code.
- 1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) is used to send, to the
2 set of clients, the instructions for each client to display the pages identified by a received
3 rotation set.
- 1 12. The method of claim 2 wherein each page comprises a plurality of panels and identifying
2 the page that contains the changed data comprises:
3 identifying a panel that contains the changed data; and
4 identifying the page that contains the identified panel.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the panel that contains the changed data and the page
2 that contains the identified panel are identified using XML code.
- 1 14. The method of claim 2 wherein the rotation set is defined in an extensible markup
2 language (XML) document.
- 1 15. The method of claim 2 wherein the page that contains the changed data, the at least one
2 rotation set that identifies the page containing the changed data, and the at least one client
3 that displays the at least one identified rotation set are identified using XML code.
- 1 16. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying a change in the displayed data comprises
2 receiving an indication of the change in the displayed data.

1 17. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing the page containing the changed data
2 for access by a plurality of different displays.

1 18. The method of claim 1 wherein the page containing the changed data includes a plurality
2 of panels, the method further comprising:
3 identifying at least one panel that contains the changed data; and
4 identifying at least one page that contains the at least one identified panel.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein generating the page containing the changed data
2 comprises defining the page using hypertext markup language (HTML).

1 20. The method of claim 1 further comprising retrieving the page containing the changed
2 data from a cache in response to receiving the request, wherein generating the page
3 containing the changed data is performed in response to a previously received request for
4 the page containing the changed data.

1 21. The method of claim 1 wherein the page containing the changed data includes a plurality
2 of panels, the method further comprising:
3 identifying at least one panel that contains the changed data;
4 retrieving the changed data; and
5 generating the at least one identified panel using the changed data, wherein
6 generating the page containing the changed data is performed using the at least one identified
7 panel.

1 22. The method of claim 21 further comprising retrieving the at least one panel containing
2 the changed data from a cache in response to receiving the request, wherein generating
3 the at least one panel containing the changed data is performed in response to a
4 previously received request for the at least one panel containing the changed data.

1 23. The method of claim 21 wherein a name of the page containing the changed data
2 specifies the changed data to be retrieved.

- 1 24. The method of claim 1 wherein the request complies with the hypertext transfer protocol.
- 1 25. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying the page containing the changed
2 data in a web browser.

- 1 26. A method for displaying information on a display device, the method comprising:
2 receiving a rotation set comprising a list identifying pages to be displayed;
3 determining if each page identified in the rotation set is stored in a cache associated
4 with the display device;
5 retrieving, from the cache, pages that are stored in the cache; sending at least one
6 request for pages that are not stored in the cache to a remote server;
7 receiving the requested pages in response to the at least one request;
8 storing the received pages in the cache; and
9 displaying each page, wherein the pages are retrieved from the cache and displayed in
10 a repeating sequence until a new rotation set is received.
- 1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the rotation set further indicates a time period,
2 corresponding to each identified page, for displaying the identified page, and each page is
3 displayed for the time period corresponding to the page.
- 1 28. The method of claim 26 wherein the rotation set comprises an extensible markup
2 language (XML) document.
- 1 29. The method of claim 26 wherein the at least one request is sent using hypertext transfer
2 protocol (HTTP).
- 1 30. The method of claim 26, wherein displaying the page comprises displaying the page
2 using a web browser.

1 31. A system for displaying information on a set of displays comprising:

2 a database for storing data to be displayed; and

3 at least one server adapted to:

4 respond to a change in the stored data to be displayed by identifying at least one
5 client adapted to display the stored data and notifying the at least one client of the
6 change in the stored data;

7 receive a request for a page containing the changed data;

8 generate the requested page; and

9 send the page to a client that displays the page in response to the received request.

1 32. The system of claim 31, wherein the database notifies the server when the data to be
2 displayed has changed.

1 33. The system of claim 31, wherein the server comprises a configuration management
2 module adapted to identify rotation sets that include at least one page affected by the
3 change in the stored data, with each rotation set comprising a list of pages to be displayed
4 by a client to which the rotation set is assigned.

1 34. The system of claim 33 wherein the server is adapted to notify the at least one client by
2 sending, to the at least one client, a rotation set that includes at least one page affected by
3 the change in the stored data.

1 35. The system of claim 34 further comprising a local cache associated with the at least one
2 client, wherein each local cache stores pages identified in the rotation set for the
3 associated client and the associated client displays each page identified in rotation set
4 assigned to the client until the client receives a rotation set that does not identify the page.

1 36. The system of claim 33 wherein the configuration management module is further adapted
2 to store data regarding the content and layout of the at least one page.

1 37. The system of claim 31 wherein the server is further adapted to maintain an open
2 connection with each client, with the notification of the change in the stored data sent
3 using the open connection.

1 38. The system of claim 31 wherein the server further comprises a cache for storing
2 previously requested pages and the server is adapted to retrieve, from the cache,
3 requested pages stored in the cache to send to the client that displays the page.

1 39. The system of claim 31 wherein the server further comprises a page maker module
2 adapted to generate the requested pages using the changed data in the database and using
3 formatting data defining the content and layout of the pages.

1 40. The system of claim 39 wherein the page maker module includes at least one panel
2 generator for generating panels, with each page constructed from a plurality of panels as
3 defined by the formatting data.

1 41. The system of claim 31, further comprising a site cache that stores pages displayed by a
2 plurality of different clients, wherein the site cache is adapted to respond to a request for
3 a page stored in the site cache by sending the requested page to a client that requested the
4 page.

1 42. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions for causing one or
2 more processors to perform operations comprising:
3 receiving a list of pages to be displayed;
4 retrieving, from a local cache, pages in the list that are stored in the local cache;
5 requesting, from a remote server, pages in the list that are not stored in the local cache;
6 receiving pages from the remote server;
7 storing the received pages in the local cache;
8 displaying the pages in the list in a repeating sequence, using the pages stored in the local
9 cache, until a new list of pages is received.

1 43. The article of claim 42 wherein the list of pages comprises a uniform resource locator
2 (URL) associated with each page and a specific page is requested from the remote server
3 using a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request containing the URL associated with
4 the specific page.

1 44. The article of claim 42 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for
2 causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising displaying each
3 page in the list of pages for a predetermined amount of time in each repetition of the
4 repeating sequence.

1 45. The article of claim 42 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for
2 causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising:
3 receiving a new list of pages;
4 identifying pages in the new list that differ from the pages stored in the local cache; and
5 requesting the identified pages from the remote server.

1 46. The article of claim 42 wherein an extensible markup language (XML) document
2 contains the list of pages.